

GardenNOTES

NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

FALL 2002

IT'S THE SEASON FOR . . . GROWING PLANTS AND DESIGNING LANDSCAPES

THIS FALL, the Northwest Horticultural Society welcomes four fabulous speakers whose knowledge and expertise will inform and inspire.

The two Wednesday lectures are guaranteed to leave you wanting more—more space, more plants, more time in the garden.

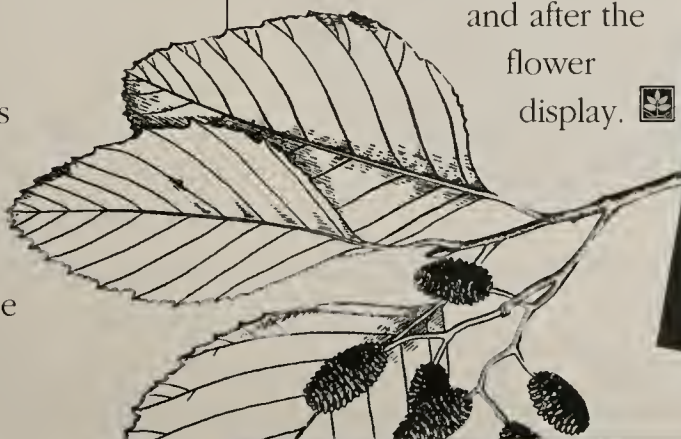
In October, we'll hear from Claire Sawyers of the Scott Arboretum in Swarthmore, Penn., in a celebration of our horticultural heritage. She'll interpret a wide array of global influences that are informing classic American landscape design.

In November, our own Richie Steffen will bring his unique brand of wit and enthusiasm for fabulous plants YOU MUST HAVE NOW! Meet Richie's favorite discoveries and enjoy his contagious excitement for everything he grows.

You can begin to think about and plan next season's garden after attending the NHS Fall Symposium on Saturday, October 12th, 9 a.m.–Noon at CUH (see story on page 5). Spend a

morning hearing two great speakers talk about "Before Flowers." Marco Polo Stufano, formerly of the famed Wave Hill Gardens in The Bronx, New York, and Marietta O'Byrne of the Northwest Garden Nursery in Eugene, Oregon, will introduce us to new ideas and new ways of looking at the garden—especially when we're without blooms.

These experts will discuss how to provide structural interest and create drama with foliage in the garden—before and after the flower display. 



FALL LECTURES

All lectures will be held
at the Center for Urban Horticulture
3501 N.E. 41st St., Seattle
Questions? Call: (206) 527-1794

Wednesday, October 9
7 P.M. reception / 7:30 P.M. lecture
"Celebrating the American Landscape
in Your Garden"

CLAIRE SAWYERS
Scott Arboretum, Swarthmore College
Fee: \$5 members, \$10 non-members

Wednesday, November 13
7 P.M. reception / 7:30 P.M. lecture
"He Who Dies with the
Most Cool Plants . . . Wins"

RICHIE STEFFEN
The Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden
Fee: \$5 members, \$10 non-members

FALL SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, October 12
9 A.M. – Noon

"Before Flowers"
MARIETTA O'BYRNE
and **MARCO POLO STUFANO**
Fee: \$35 members, \$45 nonmembers
Preregistration required by calling NHS
at (206) 527-1794
Or Email: nhsemail@compuserve.com

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University of Washington
CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE
ELISABETH C. MILLER LIBRARY
BOX 354115

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October Lecture

CLAIRE SAWYERS

“CELEBRATING THE AMERICAN LANDSCAPE IN YOUR GARDEN”

CLAIRE SAWYERS brings an eclectic background in public gardens and ornamental horticulture to her current post as the director of Swarthmore College's renowned Scott Arboretum. As the administrator of this established Pennsylvania garden, she is the steward of a 300-acre campus, which includes about 150 acres of gardens and cultivated landscapes and more than 100 acres of woodland. The Scott Arboretum exhibits over 4,000 kinds of ornamental plants, displaying some of the best trees, shrubs, vines and perennials for use in the greater Philadelphia region.

The Swarthmore landscape dates to 1864, when the school was founded by practicing Quakers. “Due to the Quaker respect and awe of nature, there was a tradition of planting trees and honoring nature,” Claire explains. In the 1920s, Arthur Hoyt Scott (Swarthmore class of 1895 and one-time president of the Scott Paper Co.), initiated the idea of establishing a botanical garden on the campus. His widow continued with the vision, providing the early funding for the Scott Arboretum. Since then, numerous alumni have helped establish or donated their collections to the arboretum, including a rose garden and an extensive holly collection. Take a virtual tour of the gardens at <http://www.scottarbortum.org/>.

Claire's work as a public garden administrator provides an interesting vantage point for noting design trends influencing the American gardener. “Our goal is to display the best garden plants for home horticulture in the Delaware Valley,” she says. “We try to maintain a balance to showcase new, worthy plants that home gardeners can use—the best, brightest and most disease-resistant.

In her October 9th NHS lecture, Claire will examine



**“IT’S CERTAINLY APPROPRIATE
FOR US TO LOOK AT OTHER
CULTURES AND APPRECIATE
(WHAT WE SEE), BUT NOT
BLINDLY COPY IT.”**

—Claire Sawyers

American horticulture's many global influences—and illustrate how the classic American landscape has borrowed from these styles. It's possible that American gardens are a blended reflection of many cultures, she says. The idea though is not to “imitate” but to “interpret.”

“As Americans, we go off traipsing around the world looking at great gardens and we try and mimic them, imitate them,” Claire points out. “But often we miss the point and only look at the superficial.”

Her own journey into horticulture was greatly influenced by living in Kyoto, Japan, for six years until she was a teenager. Four years later, while an undergraduate, Claire arranged to spend a semester as an intern with the Sone landscaping firm. She worked closely with the Japanese landscaper who maintained the famous temple gardens in Kyoto.

“The Japanese garden made a lot of sense to me,” Claire says. “We fall in love with Japanese gardens not because they have koi in their ponds, but because we're noticing things in nature that have been brought into the garden.”

When people learn of her background studying Japanese landscapes, they assume Claire's own garden is designed in that style. “No, I live in America,” she responds. “It's certainly appropriate for us to look at other cultures and appreciate (what we see), but not blindly copy it.”

Claire has gardened in Japan, France, Belgium and the United States. “What is the principle that leads to our own expressions in the landscape?” she asks of American gardeners. “Is it culturally and regionally appropriate?” Clearly, there are many traditions, styles and cultures that inspire our own garden design, but the best landscapes are quintessentially American in spirit. 

November Lecture

RICHIE STEFFEN

“HE WHO DIES WITH THE MOST PLANTS . . . WINS”

Editor's note: Garden Notes has regularly featured the seasonal essays of board member Richie Steffen, Coordinator of Horticulture for the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden.

In addition to reading Richie's fall dispatch here, NHS members and guests will have the opportunity to hear from him live and in person at his November 13th lecture.

If you haven't heard Richie wax eloquently (and passionately) about his favorite plants, you're in store for a treat! He has the singular talent of making every plant he meets sound like his favorite—providing sheer delight for those of us fortunate enough to meet those plants through Richie's eyes.

I AM SO HAPPY ITS FALL. The cool temperatures and semi-regular rains mark the beginning of the fall planting season! I have been propagating new plants throughout the summer and the nursery is ready to burst at the seams with plants to go into the garden. There are a number of new cuttings from plants imported from England last spring that are almost big enough to go into the garden. I am looking forward to see how these new plants do. I have several flats of select hellebore seedlings that should bloom for the first time this winter as well. I can't wait to see if they will have a good form and nice color.

We are also adding a number of Barnhaven primroses to some of the shady areas this fall. We have admired the profuse flowering and good garden constitution of these plants for several years and the color blends of the strains have been very pleasing. It will be nice to fill some open spots this fall.

This summer marked the start of a war between some very cute and adorable chipmunks and me. I have always enjoyed seeing them scampering around with such a cheerful demeanor, the little squeakers really brightened my day. Yet, this summer they crossed the line leading down a



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—Richie Steffen

road of betrayal. These crafty fur-covered imps had taken to depositing double cheekfuls of birdseed in my nursery containers. Once or twice is fine, but soon I found grassy green puffs of seedlings everywhere! In retaliation I have begun to pitch small stones when I see one of these little beasts. Don't worry, my aim is not that great so I would prefer to think of them as “warning shots.”

Soon after the rock throwing the guerrilla gardening seemed to end. I proclaimed myself triumphant and returned to my normal duties. In early September I was appalled at what the small subversive rodents had done. Our collection of potted bulbs had been ransacked! Some pots were half empty with papery shells of crocus bulbs surrounding like discarded Snickers wrappers. Action was swift and immediate. The entire collection has been cleaned and repotted. Fortunately, most of the pots still contained bulbs and the damage was minimal. I have placed the pots in a bulb frame covered with a wire screen and keep it under daily surveillance. There have been no incidences lately except for a minor chase into some bushes followed by my vigorous shrub-poking with a stick. I will keep you tuned in for further adventures. 🌱

NHS SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

BY DAWN CHAPLIN, SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

THIS YEAR, the Northwest Horticultural Society provided \$7,500 to support the research and education of three graduate students by awarding \$2,500 to each. The scholarship money was provided through the NHS Horticultural Education Fund, an endowment that funds the Elisabeth Carey Miller Scholarship in Horticulture.

Recipients are chosen from a group of applicants currently enrolled in a graduate program at the University of Washington through the CUH, the College of Forestry Resources, or the Dept. of Landscape Architecture. Awards are given as financial assistance for a specific research project with an environmental horticultural theme.

As this scholarship is given on a yearly basis, we are announcing the 2002 recipients and sharing a preview of their interesting and ambitious research projects.

NOEL STUDER

After obtaining her B.S. in Plant Biology/Environmental Science from Ohio University, Noel served as an agro forestry extension agent in Sub-Saharan Africa with the Peace Corps. She worked with farmers in conservation and fruit tree management techniques and taught villagers how to make compost to decrease their reliance on expensive fertilizers. Her African experiences inspired her to look at important regional issues in horticultural education for the general public in this country.

Noel is interested in the integration of new, scientifically sound horticultural methods with the policies and practices of local governments. To accomplish her goal of bridging the research and policy/implementation gap, she is



Left to right: Noel Studer, Jennifer French, and Kimberly Frappier

pursuing a double master's degree in Urban Horticulture and Public Administration.

Her research will focus on urban forestry where she will be working with the Washington Dept. of Natural Resources' Urban and Community Forestry Office to conduct the first comprehensive survey of urban forest management in the state. The results of her study are expected to reinforce and support the importance of managing "green infrastructures" and will be used to help urban foresters in efforts to "green" cities.

KIMBERLY FRAPPIER

Kimberly's research and course of study are focused on the conservation, restoration and management of natural areas. She is especially interested in the horticultural practices and ecology involved in plant health and survivorship, including soil productivity and

mycorrhizal colonization. In the summer of 2001, she worked in the subalpine parkland of Mount Rainier as a Research Assistant exploring the mycorrhizal associations of green fescue meadows for the National Park Service. This research was based on the a general belief that there is a need for better indicators of plant community health than the presence or absence of plants.

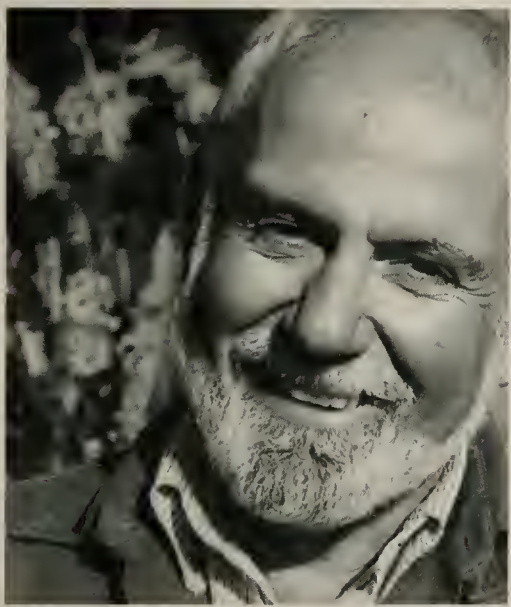
Mycorrhizae play an important role in plant nutrition and are thought to be essential in the recovery of disturbed ecosystems as they enhance water relations and improve the establishment and survival of mycotrophic species.

For her graduate research, Kim will assess the progress of the restoration of Sunrise Campground at Mount Rainier National Park. She will survey and analyze plant productivity and mycorrhizal colonization in revegetated areas within the restoration site. She

continues on page 13

FALL SYMPOSIUM: BEFORE FLOWERS

SPEND A MORNING with two of the gardening world's recognized plant experts who will share their knowledge at Northwest Horticultural Society's fall symposium. We've invited Marietta O'Byrne and Marco Polo Stufano to discuss two of the most important factors in garden design: structure and foliage. Get ready to be inspired with the passion and creative interpretation they'll bring to the subject of choosing and placing standout plants for your landscape.



Marco Polo Stufano, who last year retired from a distinguished career as director of horticulture at Wave Hill in the Bronx, New York, is known for his adventurous design style. In an article about his retirement from Wave Hill after spending 34 years creating glorious gardens there, he told a *New York Times* reporter: "Shape is really important. Structure is more important than color; it's really sculpture."

If these words resonate for you, get ready to hear more. In Marco's portion of the symposium, "Bones in the Garden," he invites us to look closely at the sculptural qualities of plants and gardens.

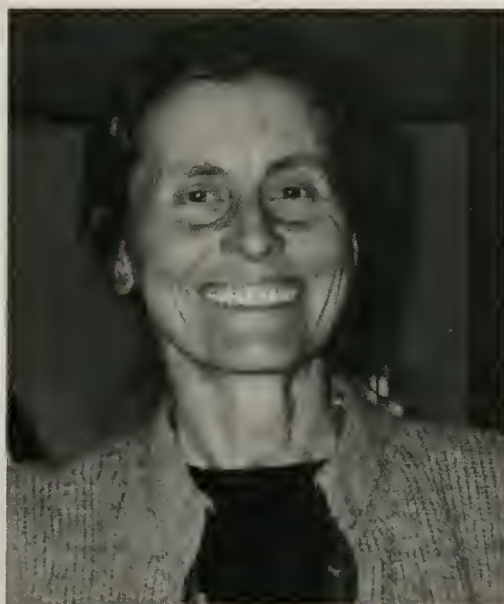
"The 'bones' are everything," he says. "For me, color and texture are certainly important, but everything is at the mercy of the underpinnings."

Marco urges us to differentiate between merely a collection of plants and *painting a successful garden picture*.

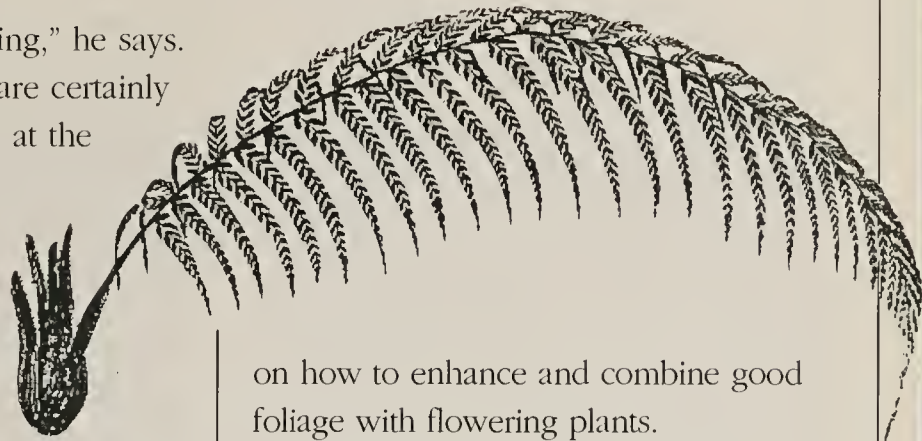
The latter is achieved, he says, "by effective consideration of the sculptural qualities and role of both living and non-living elements in the garden."

Place your elements carefully so they "speak" to each other and so the spaces between forms become "charged with energy."

"Like a choreographer moving dancers about a stage or a sculptor working with seemingly disparate pieces, the challenge is to make something happen which is *more* than the separate parts," Marco adds.



Oregon nurserywoman **Marietta O'Byrne** will devote the symposium's second portion to "Foliage First." Her talk will center on designing with foliage, not to the exclusion of flowers, but, rather,



on how to enhance and combine good foliage with flowering plants.

It's fitting for the season that Marietta's slides will illustrate plants with variegated foliage and leaves with purple, yellow and silver hues—as well as various forms of foliage, from needle-like to the bolder forms.

You'll be inspired by seeing the many ways *a garden can be made more exciting using contrasting or harmonizing foliage combinations!*

After hearing from Marco Polo Stufano and Marietta O'Byrne, you'll have a notebook full of design ideas, plant suggestions and energy. . . just in time to put their advice to work before the flowers return next spring.

As Marco puts it, there's a certain amount of intuition that goes to work when incorporating structure (not to mention foliage) in the landscape: "*The size of the space you are working with will determine the scale of the elements you are shuffling around. If what you come up with feels good in the pit of your stomach and it's your garden, then go with it!*" 

FALL SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, October 12, 9 a.m. – Noon
"Before Flowers" **MARIETTA O'BYRNE**
and **MARCO POLO STUFANO**

Fee: \$35 members, \$45 nonmembers
Preregistration required by calling
NHS at (206) 527-1794, or
Email: nbsemail@compuserve.com

A HORTICULTURAL EDUCATION: MARYANN PEMBER

BY DEBRA PRINZING

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of profiles about NHS board members and their activities

WHEN NHS BOARD MEMBER MARYANN PEMBER decides to do something, she doesn't just dabble at it... she throws herself into it whole-heartedly. Case in point: she's coordinated a fabulous lineup of classes for NHS members this year. A diverse array of topics appeals to Maryann—and subsequently, to NHS members who take classes she arranges. The 2002 class series has featured everything from nursery visits and container design classes to private garden tours and a demonstration on installing low-voltage landscape lighting.

When Maryann joined the NHS board in January, she agreed to chair the class series. She points out that one of the most important NHS missions is to *"provide inspiration and education to the Northwest gardening community through an ongoing series of lectures, symposiums, workshops and classes."*

Teaching has always been in this Medina woman's blood. She grew up playing in her mother's one-acre garden outside Madison, Wisconsin, a landscape that offers Maryann vivid memories of a garden sprinkled with wildflowers and surrounded by lilac hedges.

Maryann began teaching summer school children when she was in 4th grade; as an adult, she taught fiber arts through the Pacific Northwest Needle Arts Guild. Since the mid-1970s, she has run Maryann Pember Wardrobe Consulting, "teaching" male and female clients alike how to dress successfully.

In the past few years, Maryann and her husband Charles Pember have embraced "gardening with a grand passion." She traces her discovery of gardening to a 1997 workshop she took with Portland garden designer Lucy Hardiman, followed by a class at Heronswood Nursery where Maryann recalls "seducing" Dan Hinkley into selling her and a friend each an *Acer pseudoplatanus* 'Puget Pink' (Maryann's is now thriving in the Pember garden).

Maryann and Charles also credit garden designer Mark Henry for inspiring their newfound passion for horticulture. They resumed a friendship with Mark (who had helped choreograph their children's high school musicals years ago) after hearing



*Maryann and Charles Pember
in their sunny Medina garden*

him lecture on container design at the 1999 Northwest Flower & Garden Show.

"We like to start at the top and stay there," Maryann admits. "We love the people we've met—they've been so generous with their time, energy and information."

When NHS board member Gillian Mathews kept running into Maryann at garden tours a few years ago, she was smart enough to take note and recruit a new board member. Maryann is a dynamo

who wants to make NHS educational programs successful and accessible (either she or Charles attends every class to observe and take notes for future ideas).

When it comes to thoroughness, she dots every "i" and crosses every "t." The classes are in great shape because of her energy and enthusiasm. Maryann credits this year's successful class series to the early groundwork laid by former NHS education intern Rebecca Stewart who coordinated classes in 2001, as well as the organizational skills of NHS administrator Karin Kravitz.

Unlike our high-profile monthly lectures and special events, NHS classes meet the needs of members who wish for interactive, hands-on instruction, Maryann says. This year, she has coordinated a minimum of three classes each month, open to 15 or fewer students (registration is on a first-come basis).

"What I've tried to do is hold classes in private gardens, which has happened through the generosity of our membership," she explains. "So it's a double-whammy because you get to see someone's private garden and take a great class."

She's hoping to broaden the scope of classes in 2003, so stay tuned! Watch for periodic class fliers or check the NHS website (www.northwesthort.org) for updates. Maryann promises that next year's schedule will include several container design classes, plus at least six classes offered at the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden.

"I'm looking for ideas using our exceptional local talent—and gardens," she says. If you have a class suggestion or are interested in hosting one in your garden, please contact Karin Kravitz at the NHS office, (206) 527-1794. 🌱

SNEAK PREVIEW:

CHRISTOPHER LLOYD TO HEADLINE NHS LECTURE IN MAY

AFTER NEARLY FOUR YEARS of background work, phone calls and emails, NHS is pleased to announce it has successfully scheduled British author, plantsman and garden designer Christopher Lloyd for a Seattle lecture May 17, 2003. Fergus Garrett, head gardener at Great Dixter, will join him.

Christopher Lloyd is the genius behind the famous Great Dixter Home & Gardens in England. He has been awarded the Royal Horticultural Society's Victoria Medal of Honor and

**"THE LIMITATIONS IMPOSED
BY RULES ARE A SAFE HAVEN,
BUT THE ADVENTUROUS
GARDENER WILL WANT TO
TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT."**

—Christopher Lloyd,

*Color for Adventurous
Gardeners*

(FIREFLY BOOKS, 2001)



Christopher Lloyd

is the celebrated author of countless garden design books (*Color for Adventurous Gardeners*, *Christopher Lloyd's Gardening Year*, and *The Well-Tempered Garden*, among others). American fans read his great articles in *Horticulture* and *The Gardener*.

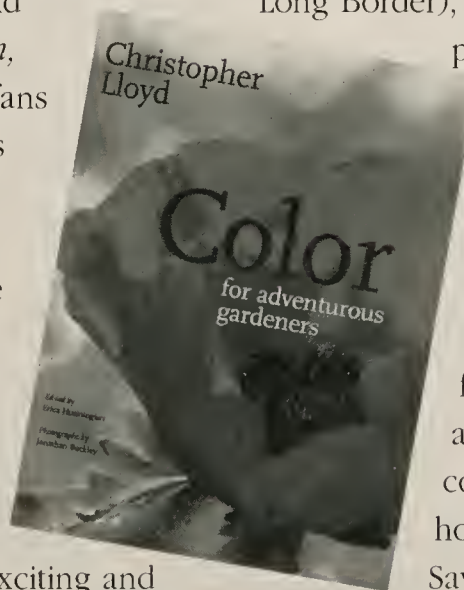
Great Dixter is the family home of Christopher Lloyd, who has devoted his lifetime to creating one of the most experimental, exciting and constantly changing gardens of our time. Incorporating many medieval buildings, the gardens surround the house, each complementing the other. There is a wide variety of interest at Great



Fergus Garrett

Dixter, from yew topiary, carpets of meadow flowers, the colorful tapestry of mixed borders (including the famous Long Border), natural ponds, a formal pool and the exuberant Exotic Garden.

Northwest gardening enthusiasts won't want to miss this once-in-a-lifetime chance to hear from Christopher Lloyd and Fergus Garrett—two compelling voices in horticulture and design. Save the Date! 🌿



A special thanks to Barbara Asmervig for her scheduling acumen and to Deborah Heg for providing the speakers' airline tickets.

**A MORNING WITH
CHRISTOPHER LLOYD
AND FERGUS GARRETT**

Saturday, May 17, 2003

9 A.M. – Noon

Museum of History and Industry, Seattle

\$25 members

\$35 non-members

**Reservations will not be taken until
spring. Watch for the Winter 2003 issue
of Garden Notes for further details.**

NHS CALENDAR OF

DATE, DAY & TIME	EVENT NAME	FEATURED SPEAKER	TYPE OF EVENT
October 9 (Wed) 7 p.m. Reception 7:30 Begin	Celebrating the American Landscape in your Garden	Claire Sawyers, director Scott Arboretum, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania	Slides & Lecture
October 12 (Sat.) 9 a.m.- 12 p.m.	Before Flowers	Marco Polo Stufano, of Wave Hill Gardens, New York and Marietta O'Byrne of Northwest Garden Nursery, Eugene, Oregon	Slides & Lecture
November 13 (Wed) 7 p.m. Reception 7:30 Begin	He Who Dies With the Most Cool Plants Wins	Richie Steffen, Coordinator of Horticulture, Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden	Slides & Lecture
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January 8 (Wed) 7 p.m. Reception 7:30 Lecture	The New Organics	Hendrikus Schraven, Hendrikus Schraven Landscape Construction & Design	Slides & Lecture
February 12 (Wed) 7 p.m. Reception 7:30 Lecture	French Garden Style for Northwest Gardens	Linda Plato, Linda Plato Garden Design	Slides & Lecture
March 12 (Wed) 7 p.m. Reception 7:30 Lecture	Floral Design for Spring & Summer Entertaining	Raul Ramirez, AIFD Lavassar Florists	Demonstration & Lecture
April 9 (Wed) 7 p.m. Reception 7:30 Lecture	Captivating Combinations	Barbara Blossom Ashman, designer and author	Slides & Lecture
May 17 (Sat) 9 a.m.-Noon	The Genius of Christopher Lloyd & Fergus Garrett	Christopher Lloyd & Fergus Garrett, Great Dixter House & Gardens	Slides & Lecture
June 11 (Wed) 7 p.m. Reception 7:30 Lecture	The Northwest Cottage Garden	Andrew Schulman, landscape architect and author	Slides & Lecture
October 8 (Wed) 7 p.m. Reception 7:30 Lecture	Building the Contemporary Garden	Steve Martino	Slides & Lecture
November 12 (Wed) 7 p.m. Reception 7:30 Lecture	Trees for Residential Gardens	Douglas Justice, UBC Botanical Garden	Slides & Lecture

Don't forget to check the NHS website—www

EVENTS 2002 - 2003

DESCRIPTION	MEMBER / NON	LOCATION
... will share the classic American landscape prototypes with ideas for translating those into a residential scale garden design.	\$5/\$10	NHS Hall Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle
... in the bloom of summer is gone, you begin to think about what changes to make in your garden before those flowers bloom again. This is your opportunity to hear from experts about ways to provide structural interest and create drama with color in your garden—before and after the flower display.	\$35/\$45 Reservations Required	NHS Hall Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle
... there isn't a more enthusiastic and passionate plant-lover around than Julie Steffen. You won't leave his talk feeling ambivalent about Julie's long list of favorite and fantastic plants.	\$5/\$10	NHS Hall Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle
E V I E W		
... from one of the visionaries in organic landscape design. Issaquah-based Hendrikus Schraven's award-winning firm has led the landscaping profession to adopt many chemical-free and ecological practices. Hendrikus is an industry pioneer in organic soil practices, and has recently launched a retail product line called Soil Dynamics.	\$5/\$10	NHS Hall Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle
... Williams-Sonoma, Pottery Barn, Restoration Hardware—the influence of France in home design stores is unmistakable! And if the garden is an extension of the indoors, why not spill some of that fabulous French design into your garden? Linda will show you many ideas on how to use the French <i>zsa zsa zsu</i> in your garden.	\$5/\$10	NHS Hall Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle
... known for his fabulous wedding, event and party floral designs, Raul will help us draw imagination from our own gardens—as he demonstrates creations for spring and summer centerpieces, buffets, hostess gifts, place settings and even napkin rings!	\$5/\$10	NHS Hall Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle
... as an artist manipulates color, texture and form to create a composition of beauty, the skillful gardener does the same with plants. Portland-based Barbara Blossom Ashman will discuss how to place companion plants together so that their colors, foliage and form create a picture that's greater than the sum of its parts.	\$5/\$10	NHS Hall Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle
... British gardening authority Christopher Lloyd and Fergus Garrett, head gardener at Great Dixter House and Gardens, will dazzle us with a pair of lectures featuring their creative and timeless designs. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear from two stellar voices in the world of gardening.	\$25/\$35 Reservations Required	Museum of History & Industry, Seattle
... Andrew Schulman, a Seattle-based contributor to Fine Gardening magazine, will define and discuss the Northwest cottage garden. You don't need a cottage to enjoy this colorful, casual garden style. The right plants, décor and layout can establish an excellent cottage garden atmosphere with Northwest regional flavor.	\$5/\$10	NHS Hall Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle
... featured in <i>Breaking Ground: Ten Portraits of Garden Designers</i> , Phoenix-based Steve Martino will inspire us with his creative approach to the landscape.	\$5/\$10	NHS Hall Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle
... Douglas Justice, associate director and curator of collections at Vancouver's UBC Botanical Garden, will explore the range and suitability of trees for residential landscapes. He'll introduce us to characteristics of small trees, tree-like shrubs and larger trees that fit in smaller spaces.	\$5/\$10	NHS Hall Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st, Seattle

westhort.org—for updates and new events!

PLANTAMNESTY SPEAKS OUT

BY CASS TURNBULL

AS FOUNDER OF PLANTAMNESTY, I was pleased to read Linda Plato's article in the Spring 2002 issue of **GardenNotes**, "A Gentle Plea for the Hedge Trimmers."

PlantAmnesty's goal is "to end the senseless torture and mutilation of trees and shrubs cause by mal-pruning." Our first order of business is to raise awareness of pruning issues in a media campaign that employs the highly successful combination of "humor and controversy." Although we are well recognized for our work to end tree topping, our endeavors to end what we term **inappropriate shearing** haven't received much attention. Therefore I personally view Ms. Plato's article as sure sign that our strategy is beginning to work!

However, I would like to clear up some myths about PlantAmnesty:

PlantAmnesty is against topiary, sheared hedges and formal gardens.

PlantAmnesty volunteers donated a day's work to shear 125 feet of lumpy boxwood hedge (in front of a local elementary school) into a topiary bookworm (and an open book) to celebrate National Reading Week. The point is, there is a difference between real topiary and the ubiquitous shearing of all shrubs into boxes, balls and other shapes as are seen in landscapes everywhere. We can tell the difference.

PlantAmnesty goes to people in their homes and shames them with an award for having an ugly yard.

We don't do that! We do however have an annual Ugly Yard Photo Contest. The categories are Bad Tree Pruning,



Boy meets girl—2 park forsythia in Flint, MI.

Bad Shrub Pruning, Bad Design, Deadly Dull and Too Bizarre. We don't notify the yard owners. That would be rude! It's the photographers that win valuable prizes, which are mailed if they cannot attend. (You, too, could win a NO ZUKES T-shirt). The winning photos do appear in our newsletter. But the chances that the yard owners are PlantAmnesty members and will get a newsletter are, well, pretty slim.

PlantAmnesty preaches that formal gardens are high maintenance, bad for the environment, and in bad taste.

Well, part of that is true. Formal gardens and ones that contain what I call "pruning art" (topiary, pollarded trees, pleached trees and stooled or coppiced plants) require higher maintenance than informal gardens. The pruning art forms share (with mal-pruning) the common characteristics of being high maintenance and counter the natural inclinations of the plants. But unlike mal-pruning, pruning art maintains the long-term health of the plant. The general rules of pruning are broken to achieve a special ornamental effect.

Our mission is to get people to be able to tell the difference between pollarding and tree topping, and between topiary and inappropriate shearing. A recent PlantAmnesty newsletter contains the primer on pruning art. In part it reads: "In all cases the species used is specifically well-suited for the treatment and is planted for that express purpose. It is trained from the beginning when it is young (to avoid sudden, severe stress) and the plant is guaranteed knowledgeable, annual pruning for the life of the landscape, not just during the current property owner's term." The species commonly chosen for topiary are tough enough to take repeated heading cuts; they have small leaves, spaced closely together and are evergreen such as boxwood, yew, and pyracantha.

...bad for the environment?

Neither mal-pruning nor formal gardening are bad for the environment unless you reside in an area that does not recycle green waste. Both do create a lot of that, much more than an informal garden with plants well situated so that they need little pruning. Hedges, topiary and topped trees are, strangely enough, great habitat. Birds appreciate the dense cover that hedges provide, plus the thickly bunched ends of branches (that are the result of heading cuts) are perfect places to build nests. It is therefore important for people with hedge trimmers to investigate their plants for new nests before launching into them with power equipment in the spring. Some just wait till later in the season or winter to do the work.

Topped trees are especially good for wildlife. They provide nesting cavities, denuded snag perches, and lovely bug-filled wood upon which to feast. Trees are so giving, even in decline and death! When a dead tree is topped and kept for wildlife habitat, PlantAmnesty advises that you post it with a sign that says as much, so that your neighbors don't assume it is a form of "pruning". One thing we do know is that tree topping is contagious and likely to spread rapidly down the block.

... bad taste

Topiary and other forms of pruning art are a matter of taste—you either like them or not, but they are not horticulturally wrong. On the other hand, the hundreds of thousands of inappropriately sheared shrubs that dominate our landscapes (not only here in Seattle, but across the nation and in many other countries and throughout several decades and perhaps even centuries!) are, in many people's opinions, in poor taste. I'll stick by that.

Sometimes a creative and hardworking individual manages to sculpt some shrubs into such interesting and fantastic shapes that they qualify as a sort of folk art even if they do not follow the "rules of topiary". There is a great example if you take the first left

after passing through the gates of Sandpoint Country Club. I love it! The photos of sheared plants printed in PlantAmnesty newsletters do not, however, qualify as folk art nor are they 'skillfully sheared.' But what they are is well intended.

The Rub and the Mission

And there's the rub. Whereas all mal-pruning is well intended (even the worst case of tree topping) the more fanciful attempts at shearing are also meant as an offering of friendship to the public. I must confess that it even makes me uneasy, the thought of offending some sweet, well-meaning old lady who takes a lot of pride in her meticulously boxed-up forsythia. And if there were only a few around we could afford to be generously silent.

The problem is that of those shrubs that are touched by pruning implements (as opposed to those who enjoy benign neglect), I would estimate that 90% would be "inappropriately sheared" or otherwise mal-pruned by a homeowner and certainly by the vast majority of "professionals". The first time a talented garden designer drives by an informal landscape of her own design (with such carefully chosen plants for contrast in texture and form and show for every season) and sees that the owner has sheared everything in sight into a featureless blobs, she will gain a keen insight into our great crusade.

PlantAmnesty has no sense of humor or whimsy?

Nobody dies from sheared shrubbery, except perhaps some of the shrubs themselves. This makes our task all the more difficult. We seem strident and odd expending energy on such a trivial item. That's where the humor comes in. Can an organization that invented the Juniper Tam Toss, Lawenda the Plant Channeler,

Father Weeddo Sarducci (who takes horticultural confessions) the Walking Forest and the Precision Fanrake Drill Team be said to have no sense of humor? When we poke fun at mal-pruning the public usually receives it that way, believe it or not. We avoid direct confrontation, but use public education, with humor to get the point across. I have given hundreds of slideshows of "Pruning Horrors" and logged hundreds of hours at the "Hall of Shame" educational booth at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show. I know many reformed toppers and shearers who have become PlantAmnesty members. I distinctly remember one fellow who had a spontaneous conversion. He had sheared everything in his yard and it was a source of marital conflict. After the class he understood why it worked sometimes, and didn't other times. He bought three copies of my book, made up with his wife, and sent me a photo for my scrapbook of his earlier self, standing on the top of his birch with a pair of power hedge shears. He had just completed shearing the tree—into a giant birch ball!

It is the people who have not committed themselves to a pruning philosophy whom we reach most successfully. They will be, perhaps, more willing to expend the time, effort, or money to use selective pruning on their own plants. And if they choose a formal garden, we hope they will choose the right plants!

I hope that clarifies things a bit. So go out and have fun in the garden, and if you want to do some creative topiary check out the adopt-a-plant column in our newsletter. Someone just put up twenty boxwoods for adoption! 

NHS member Cass Turnbull is the founder of PlantAmnesty. Sasquatch Books will release her new pruning guide in 2003.

LEARN MORE ABOUT PLANTAMNESTY

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Web: www.plantamnesty.org

With a \$50 "cyber" membership, you can log onto Cass Turnbull's out-of-print book, *The Complete Guide to Landscape Design, Renovation and Maintenance*.

BOOKS: NEW TITLES

**THE NORTHWEST GARDENERS'
RESOURCE DIRECTORY,
Ninth Edition
Created by Stephanie Feeney
Debra Prinzing, Editor
(Sasquatch Books, 2002)
ISBN No. 1-57061-303-6**

Reviewed by Diane Laird

This book is the World Wide Garden Web in your lap with all of the duds weeded out. In fact, I had a lot of fun reading it while logged onto the Internet. As soon as an entry caught my eye, I immediately typed in the URL (www site) and saw photos, reviews, more information and links to related sites. Who can resist taking a quick peek at Better Gnomes & Gardens, gardening gloves made for women only, or Anderson Horticultural Library's subscription service for their magazine article database?

We love books like this—something to settle down and curl up with, immediately getting lost in the pages. *The Northwest Gardeners' Resource Directory* could be the organized result of my own thousands of hours on the Internet, finding the best nurseries, the best books, best suppliers, and then categorizing them and book marking them as favorites and putting all the information in one place with the phone numbers, addresses, hours, web sites, driving directions and other pertinent information. Except I didn't categorize, organize and update my information over the years!

There is a lot of new information in this Ninth Edition, and I rediscovered

some forgotten treasures. Our friend Stephanie Feeney did well by us in selecting Debra Prinzing to carry on the updating and editing of this great resource. The transition between the two is seamless; the complementary spirits are obvious in both the writing and the photo of the writers together on the last page.

I have often given *The Northwest Gardeners' Resource Directory* as an "advance" gift to friends coming to the area to visit. I keep a copy in my car—that, along with a cell phone and a full tank of gas makes spontaneous road trips both possible and efficient. You need this book.

Diane Laird is a former president of NHS and an inveterate garden tour guide.

**The Bountiful Container
By Rose Marie Nichols McGee and
Maggie Stuckey
(Workman Publishing, 2002)
ISBN 0-7611-1623-0**

Reviewed by Debra Prinzing

This is a book about growing good things to eat—vegetables, herbs, fruits and edible flowers—in containers. It comes as no surprise to urban gardeners that patios, decks and balconies make for great vegetable patches. But there are many folks new to gardening (or those who've been forced to "downsize" their garden) who will be thrilled with the ideas and tips in this fabulous resource: *The Bountiful Container*.

As Rose Marie Nichols McGee and Maggie Stuckey put it: If you can grow pansies in a pot, you can grow peas in a

pot. Both need about the same conditions, but one will give you dinner.

McGee is a well-known Northwest gardener who is president of Albany, Ore.-based Nichols Garden Nursery, one of America's best specialty seed companies, founded by her parents more than 50 years ago. You've seen her delightful edible gardens at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show—the ones that suggest Peter Rabbit has just scurried through the potager.

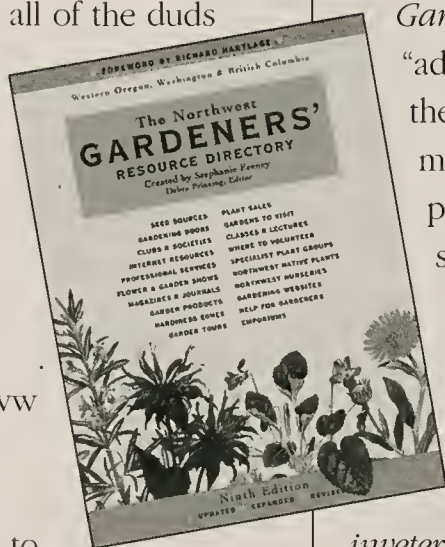
Now, in collaboration with Maggie Stuckey (*Western Trees: A Field Guide* and *The Houseplant Encyclopedia*), McGee has put all her best ideas down in more than 400 tip-filled pages. With useful line drawings, this book will get your kitchen garden going. And if you already grow edibles in pots, look closely for the many gourmet ideas to expand beyond the ordinary crops: Mizuna, tomatillos (the purple variety), snap peas and fava beans are pleasurable choices suggested here. Step-by-step succession gardening ideas offer you a way to sow and harvest season upon season in one container—a plus for

those with limited growing space.

As you harvest the fruits, vegetables, herbs and edible flowers you've grown in containers, take a look at the many tasty recipes sandwiched between chapters. The Herbed Baked Apples

and Stuffed Squash Blossoms with Fresh Tomato Sauce are enough to lure me straight from the garden to the kitchen.

P.S. if you're hoping to order seeds for next season, visit McGee's great website and online catalog at www.nicholsgardennursery.com. 



IS MY GARDEN DEAD YET?

THE GARDEN CURMUDGEON

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR when garden writers wax poetic about the winter garden.

Plant this for berries, plant that for bark interest, don't forget to plant your spring bulbs... It occurred to me, as I was doing my fall cleanup (last April) that the absolute last thing I want to do in the fall is expend a lot of energy. Let's face it—I'm pooped.



into the compost heap. And at the next garden party, you can always tell your friends in your best haughty-culture voice, "I tried that banana, but I didn't think it was all that. In fact, I just threw it away last week."

It will come as no surprise to those of you that know the Garden Curmudgeon that I rely on my garden's structure and evergreen plantings for that ubiquitous winter interest. And that's it. None of those blasted winter cabbages. No huge hips, berries, blooms, or bright branches. I want to close the shades, turn all of the lights on, and blast the heat. The seed catalogs will be here soon, and I need to store up my energy for all of the highlighting, page turning, and cross-referencing that has become my January tradition.

Winter in the Northwest is a cold, dark, damp affair and if we can celebrate the shade garden, I think we should celebrate the cold, dark, damp garden. Yes, we can go outside in inclement weather thanks to our Gore-Tex, polypropylene, knee-high rubber boots, and that effective but hideous Northwest fashion statement, the Oregon sombrero. But do we have to? Personally, I'd rather be sitting inside on my bum, sipping a hot toddy, and watching Ground Force on BBC. Let Alan Titchmarsh and crew get wet and sore; I'm taking this winter off. Come spring, I'll be rested, rejuvenated, and ready for MY gardening season: Mother's Day to Labor Day. 🌱

The Garden Curmudgeon is an NHS member who prefers to remain anonymous.

NHS SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

continued from page 4

believes that the findings from this study regarding the natural reestablishment of mycorrhizae could have implications for horticultural and restoration practices regarding site preparation before planting and propagation of native species.

JENNIFER FRENCH

Jennifer's undergraduate degree from Southern Oregon University is in Biology with a botany emphasis. She has a strong interest in native pollinators and wants to understand which bees pollinate plants in native Washington bogs and how development around the bogs affects pollinating insects. As land becomes developed, and pesticide use in urban and agricultural areas increase, insects are killed or become constrained by the fragmentation of landscapes. This has increased concern for the fate of pollinators along with the desire to provide some protection for them.

As Sphagnum-dominated bogs are a distinct and scarce wetland that supports state listed sensitive plant species, Jennifer believes that they may serve as a unique and essential bee habitat. She has chosen four Puget Sound lowland bogs as the sites for her research. Two of the bogs will be in urbanized areas with development adjacent to the bog. The other two bogs will be in undisturbed areas. By comparing the fruit and seed set of flowers following insect exclusion and hand pollination studies at the various sites, she hopes to determine the level of reliance of sphagnum bog plant communities on bee and other insect pollinators. She will also observe, collect and identify insect visitors to each flower type. The information gained will give a better understanding of sphagnum bog pollinator communities and compare the effects of urbanization on our native bee populations. 🌱

NHS BULLETIN BOARD

Seattle Chinese Garden Auction

2002 IS THE YEAR OF THE HORSE, so fittingly, the Seattle Chinese Garden Society's annual auction celebrates "Charging Horse, Soaring Dragon." The auction will be held 3-7:30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 3 at the Bell Harbor International Conference Center. Enjoy a champagne reception and silent auction, followed by a dinner and live auction. The Honorable Paige Miller is chairing this event, which raises funds for the construction of the new Chinese Garden in West Seattle. Tickets begin at \$150 per person.

When completed, this classical Sichuan-style garden will feature pavilions and a teahouse with courtyards, flowing water, lotus pond and lush plantings. To order tickets, volunteer or donate items, please call the Seattle Chinese

Garden Society at (206) 282-8040, ext. 100 or visit www.seattle-chinese-garden.org.



Horticulture Magazine Symposium

"SENSE AND SENSUALITY" is a regional symposium hosted by Horticulture magazine, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 19 at Portland State University in Portland, Ore. Several fabulous speakers, linked by a common passion for the sensual pleasure of gardening, will discuss ways to take your garden to the "next level."

Hear from landscape architect Patrick Chassè, Pennsylvania-based garden writer and nurseryman Jack Staub, horticulturist Holly Shimizu and Oregon garden designer Linda Beutler as they discuss gardening for the senses—with visual, scented and tasteful pleasures in mind.

Tickets are \$109, including luncheon; \$99 for Horticulture subscribers, \$95 for members of the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon. Call toll-free to register: (877) GDN-PROG or (877) 436-7764. Visit www.hortmag.com for more information.

Seattle Youth Garden Works Auction

SEATTLE YOUTH GARDEN WORKS holds its first fundraising auction at 5 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 10. Tickets are \$35 and will feature great food from Seattle caterers, music and a chance to bid on fabulous items—many with a horticultural theme. Ciscoe Morris will be the featured guest at this event.

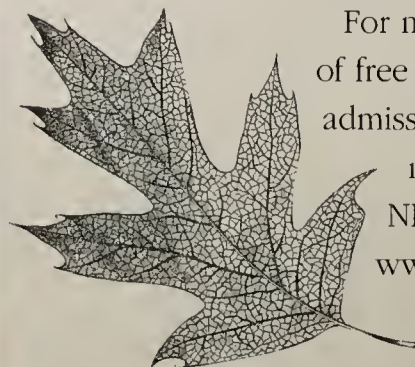
Seattle Youth Garden Works is an organic market gardening and job-training program for homeless and at-risk youth, 14-22. For seven years, CUH has provided greenhouse and outdoor growing space to support the work of these future entrepreneurs. If you would like to order auction tickets, volunteer, or donate an item, please call Seattle Youth Garden Works at (206) 525-1213, ext. 4132.

Join NHS & Refer a Friend!

THE NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY began in 1965 with just 16 members. Today, we have nearly 900 members and continue growing!

When you join NHS, here's what you'll receive:

- ✿ Four issues of Garden Notes, the NHS newsletter
- ✿ Free admission to three lectures in the Wednesday Evening Lecture Series
- ✿ Access to the best horticultural lectures, programs and symposia in the region
- ✿ Camaraderie, collegiality and countless new ideas for your garden
- ✿ Discount rates on all classes and tours
- ✿ Invitation to the Ultimate Garden Auction and Party
- ✿ Discount on Pacific Horticulture
- ✿ Fulfilling volunteer opportunities



For more details on the number of free lectures and discount admissions provided for each membership level, contact NHS at (206) 527-1794 or see www.northwesthort.org

EVERGREEN PLANTS WITH FALL AND WINTER COLOR

This is not a horticultural oxymoron!

BY STEVE SMITH

MOST OF US WOULD ASSUME that if we were going to enjoy great fall color we would have to accept looking at bare branches and sticks for the rest of the winter. It is true that most plants that exhibit fall color are deciduous. But what if you could find a plant that not only turned great fall color, but also kept its fall color all winter long and never

lost its leaves? Wouldn't that be the best of both worlds! No leaves to rake, no sticks to look at. Just foliage that changes with the seasons.

Too good to be true you say! Well, I'm here to tell you that it happens. In fact, I've scrounged up seven plants that make stunning changes in the fall and winter. Here are some perennials,

conifers, rhodies, and broadleaf evergreens that need to be a part of your garden collection.

Steve Smith writes for several local publications and owns Sunnyside Nursery in Marysville. You can contact him at (425) 334-2002 or Sunnysidenursery@msn.com.

PJM RHODODENDRON—Here's a great rhodie that won't cover the front room window. Smaller leaves turn a rich mahogany in winter and have a very distinct fragrance. The purplish-pink flowers come out in early spring and are striking against the dark winter foliage. Hardy to -25 degrees and heat tolerant, PJM grows 4' tall and is very durable. Northern Starburst is a selection with almost black leaves in winter. Every yard should have a PJM rhodie in it!

NANDINA—Heavenly Bamboo. Nandinas will grow in sun or shade and come in several forms from dwarf to the standard 6-foot varieties. Nandinas have pleasingly textured foliage reminiscent of bamboo. Terminal clusters of white flowers produce red berries in winter that are perfect for using in holiday wreaths. The foliage, which is a soft light green during the season, takes on purple and bronze tints in the fall and then turns fiery crimson in the winter. Nasty winters will defoliate a Nandina but it usually recovers quickly. There are many great varieties available but my favorites are 'Fire Power' and 'Gulf Stream.'

LEUCOTHOE—This is a wonderful plant that should be in a lot more Northwest gardens. Leucothoe is native to the Southeastern U.S. but seems to be at home here, as well. It's a great looking plant with glossy foliage and white bell-shaped flowers



in spring. Normally sold as a shade plant, it will do just fine in sun if the soil is enriched with compost and adequate moisture is provided. Stems are arching to 2-3 feet tall and 4-5 feet wide. The leaves emerge bronze, turn dark green in the summer and return to a reddish-bronze in the winter. 'Rainbow' has green leaves marbled cream and pink during the summer. 'Nana' is a dwarf flavor that only grows 2 feet tall.

CRYPTOMERIA JAPONICA ELEGANS—Plume Cedar. This is a conifer with needle-like foliage but unlike any pine or spruce you've ever seen. Very soft feathery foliage is a pleasing bluish-green in summer, turning to a rich coppery red or purple in the winter. This variety can grow into a tree, reaching 40 feet tall! Surprisingly, there are several conifers that take on a plum color in the winter. This has something to do with the cold temperatures, much like gardeners who turn blue in the cold! Cryptomerias come in several forms and provide a nice variation on the needle-leaved theme.

EUONYMUS KEWENSIS—Euonymus is a large group of mostly evergreen plants that are known for their durability and adaptability. Kewensis is a marvelous ground cover that will spread over the ground, over rocks or even up a wall. I have an established clump that is now over and through my six-foot high cedar fence. It is on both the north side (complete shade) and

south side (complete sun) of the fence and looks great in both exposures. Come winter, this plant is magic: it forms a bright red tapestry. It has fine-textured leaves of only 1/4 by 3/4 inch and no flowers, but who cares!

BERGENIA—Known in England as Pig Squeak because of the sound made when you rub your fingers over the foliage, bergenias have been around forever. Go to Queen Anne and you will find them in almost every rockery you encounter. Evergreen perennials that bloom in early spring with stalks of white to pink nodding flowers, the coarse glossy foliage makes this plant so useful. Use it as a ground cover or for a broad foliated accent in either sun or shade. Several varieties are now available that turn a striking bronze in the winter.

EUPHORBIA—An evergreen perennial known for its architectural qualities in the garden, euphorbias look rather tropical or succulent as though they should belong in Southern California. But they are perfectly hardy for the Northwest and make a great addition to the garden. Amygdaloides 'Purpurea' grows 2 feet tall with leaves that are bluish green in summer and then turn dark red in winter. Martinii is similar with a more erect growth habit. Euphorbias are very drought tolerant and will grow in well-drained soil, full sun or partial shade. The blooms last for several months making them a truly garden worthy plant. 

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

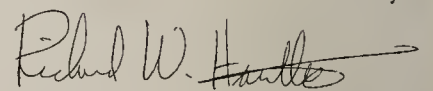
I'M COMING TO THE END of serving two years as president of NHS and am looking forward to passing on the baton. It will be great to settle back into my primary interest in horticultural education, particularly since we have such a strong Educational Committee. **Maryann Pember** is doing a spectacular job lining up classes that will knock your socks off in the coming year and **Barbara Asmervig** is working on our terrific monthly lectures. Barbara has also achieved a feat that I tried several years ago and gave up on—she has organized a morning of lecture on May 17, 2003 with **Christopher Lloyd and Fergus Garrett**. This will be a once in a lifetime chance to hear both the "Boys from Dixter" here in Seattle. Amazing!

Unfortunately the most memorable event of my tenure as president was the burning of CUH. I will never forget showing up at the base of the charred building and choking back tears. It was a horrible sight I will never forget. NHS since its inception has had a long tradition of supporting CUH and the Miller Library. The board and members of the organization have been overwhelmingly supportive of the efforts to rebuild and refurnish the Miller Library. Thank you all for helping to raise \$45,000 at the auction in May and please remember we need more support to raise enough money to furnish the library when it reopens.

NHS has never been stronger and better run and that has little to do with me. I cannot thank the committee members enough for running each part of the organization with good humor and professionalism. You all have made my job easier and more fulfilling. It has been a pleasure to work with everybody and get to know so many new people. There is one person who really deserves all the credit and that is **Karin Kravitz**. She is the glue that holds us together and really the one individual who deserves all the credit and praise. Not only is she a joy to work with, she has become one of my closest friends through my involvement with NHS. Our daily telephone calls are the highlight of my day. I cannot express enough gratitude to Karin to say how much you have made my job more efficient and more pleasurable.

I am not going away by any means. I am looking forward to focusing my attention more keenly on the Miller Garden and Great Plant Picks but you will still see me at every NHS lecture and event for NHS.

Thank you!



Richard W. Hartlage, President

Editor's note: January 15, 2003 is the deadline for Winter 2003 GardenNotes newsletter

Garden NOTES

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